

8. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which said crosslinking step is performed at a temperature of at least 100°C, preferably between 120 and 180°C and/or at a concentration of the polysaccharide of between 25 and 75% by weight.

10. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which said drying step (d) is performed using a fluidised bed, at a temperature of between 50 and 130°C.

11. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which said drying step (d) is followed by a heat treatment at a temperature of between 80 and 150°C.

12. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which an additional surface-crosslinking step is performed after step (c) or after step (d).

13. (Amended) Superabsorbent polysaccharide derivative obtainable by the process according to claim 1, and having a pH below 5.

15. (Amended) Absorbent article comprising a superabsorbent polysaccharide according to claim 13.